

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus for the preparation of an electrochemical sensor comprising a sensor head in order to provide the sensor head with an electrolyte and a membrane, the apparatus comprising a holder for the sensor, a dispenser for the electrolyte, a dispenser for the membrane and a common carrier, wherein:

the holder, the dispenser for the electrolyte, the dispenser for the membrane and the common carrier are arranged within a common housing that is able to be handheld with the common housing comprising a housing upper part and a housing lower part being mutually rotatably mounted in a direction of rotation, the housing upper part being capable of being moved by hand in the direction of rotation, the housing upper part and the housing lower part each comprising a half shell which form a common inner space for the reception of at least the dispenser for the electrolyte, the dispenser for the membrane, the common carrier and the holder for the sensor;

the holder is fixedly arranged in said housing lower part, with the housing lower part comprising an opening where the opening leads to the holder to engage the electrochemical sensor;

the housing upper part further comprising an actuator which is displaceably mounted essentially in the vertical direction with respect to the housing upper part and the housing lower part; and

the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for the membrane are arranged within the common carrier within said common housing, the common carrier has an operative connection to the housing upper part in order to rotate the common carrier in the direction of rotation if the housing upper part is rotated in the direction of rotation,

the common carrier, comprising the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for the membrane, is rotatably mounted in the housing lower part in said direction of rotation in order to position the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for the membrane in sequence

with respect to the sensor held in the holder by manually moving the housing upper part in the direction of rotation, and to supply the electrolyte and membrane to the sensor by manually moving the actuator in said vertical direction by downward pressing exerted onto the actuator with the actuator comprising a plurality of plungers capable of either linear or rotational movement in connection with the actuator, wherein:

a first plunger releases electrolyte from a container opened by pressure exerted on the actuator so that electrolyte is applied to the sensor head; and

a second plunger by pressure exerted downwardly on the actuator releases the membrane with a pressing surface that reproducibly displaces the electrolyte.

2. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the common carrier is insertable within said common housing.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser for the membrane is to dispense the membrane such that the membrane is able to be secured to the sensor head with a reproducible pressing force.
5. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein the dispenser for the membrane includes at least a pressing body including at least a pressing surface, wherein the pressing body is arranged such that the pressing surface contacts the membrane during the dispensing of the membrane in order to displace electrolyte located between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that the sensor connected to the membrane has a reproducible layer thickness of the electrolyte, between the sensor head and the membrane.
6. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 5 comprising an element for cleaning the sensor head wherein the element for cleaning the sensor head is displaceably mounted with respect to the holder, and wherein the element for cleaning the sensor head is able to be so positioned with respect to the holder so that the element for cleaning mechanically

cleans the sensor head of the sensor held in the holder.

7. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, comprising an element for the removal of a membrane, the element for the removal of a membrane being displaceably mounted with respect to the holder, and wherein the element for the removal of the membrane is able to be positioned with respect to the holder such that after the removal of a used membrane the sensor is able to be supplied to the holder.

8. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for the membrane are secured to a common carrier, and wherein the element for the cleaning and the element for the removal of the membrane are secured to the common carrier.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the housing lower part and the housing upper part are each designed as a half shell which form a common inner space for the reception of at least the dispenser for the electrolyte, the dispenser for the membrane, an element for the cleaning of the sensor head and an element for the removal of a membrane.

11. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein the housing lower part and the housing upper part are releasably connectable to one another.

12. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 10, wherein the actuator has an operative connection to at least one of the dispenser for the electrolyte, the dispenser for the membrane, the element for the cleaning of the sensor head and the element for the removal of a membrane in order to bring about a force and/or a movement on at least one of the dispenser for the electrolyte, the dispenser for the membrane, the element for the cleaning of the sensor head and the element for the removal of a membrane via the actuator.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the common carrier is formed as an exchangeable part.

15. (Previously Presented) A common carrier for the handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, comprising at least one container filled with electrolyte and a membrane.

16. (Previously Presented) The common carrier in accordance with claim 15, comprising an element for cleaning the sensor head and an element for the removal of the membrane.

17. (Previously Presented) The common carrier in accordance with claim 15, comprising a first connection part which defines an axis of rotation and wherein the container and the membrane are arranged spaced apart in a peripheral direction with respect to the axis of rotation.

18. (Previously Presented) The common carrier in accordance with claim 17 wherein the element for the removal of the membrane, the element for cleaning the sensor head, the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for the membrane are arranged following one another in the peripheral direction.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for the manual preparation of an electrochemical sensor with a handheld apparatus to provide a sensor head of said sensor with an electrolyte and a membrane, said handheld apparatus comprising a common housing that is able to be handheld, with the housing comprising a housing upper part and a common housing lower part rotatably coupled, an actuator manually accessible comprising at least a first and second plunger, capable of linear movement in a vertical direction with respect to the housing upper part and the housing lower part, in connection with the actuator, a holder and a common carrier comprising at least a dispenser for the electrolyte and a dispenser for the membrane, the method comprising:

securing said sensor in the holder by moving the sensor through an opening in the housing lower part, wherein the holder is fixedly arranged with respect to said housing lower part and wherein the dispenser for the electrolyte and the dispenser for the membrane are rotatably mounted with respect to the holder;

manually moving the common carrier by movement of the housing upper part in a direction of rotation in relation to the housing lower part to position the dispenser for the electrolyte above the sensor head;

applying a first force by downward pressing exerted onto said actuator to move the first and second plunger in said vertical direction, wherein on application of the first downward pressing force the dispenser for the electrolyte gets in contact with the sensor head, and wherein further movement of the first plunger in said vertical direction releases the electrolyte from a container opened by pressure exerted by said first plunger and said sensor head;

releasing the first force onto said actuator and moving the actuator opposite to said vertical direction, manually moving the common carrier to position the dispenser for the membrane above the sensor head; and

applying a second force by downward pressing exerted onto said actuator to move the first and second plunger in said vertical direction, wherein on application of the second downward pressing force said dispenser for the membrane gets in contact with the sensor head to supply the membrane to the sensor head, wherein the second plunger by pressure exerted in said vertical direction on the actuator releases the membrane with a pressing surface that reproducibly displaces the electrolyte, the said applying of the force moves the second plunger in said vertical direction.

20. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the membrane is supplied to the sensor head with a reproducible pressing force defined by a spring in order to reproducibly displace electrolyte present between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that in each case a reproducible layer thickness of electrolyte arises between the membrane and the sensor head.

21. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 19, comprising removing a original membrane from the sensor head, cleaning the sensor head, supplying the electrolyte to the sensor head supplying the membrane to the sensor head, all in a compulsory guided manner.

22. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the compulsory guided manner takes place in such a way that the sensor is secured within the common housing and that individual steps at the sensor are compulsorily guided by rotation of a part of the common housing.

23. (Currently Amended) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the dispenser for the membrane includes at least a pressing body including at least a pressing surface, wherein the pressing body is arranged such that the pressing surface contacts the membrane through movement of the second plunger directed by hand force applied on the actuator during the dispensing of the membrane in order to displace electrolyte located between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that the sensor connected to the membrane has a reproducible layer thickness of the electrolyte, and has a uniform [[a]] layer thickness of the electrolyte, between the sensor head and the membrane.

24. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein the housing upper part and the housing lower part are releasably connectable to one another by a mutual rotary movement.

25. (Previously Presented) Handheld apparatus in accordance with claim 7, wherein the common carrier is formed as a disposable part.

26. (Previously Presented) The common carrier in accordance with claim 15 comprising a first connection part which defines an axis of rotation wherein the container, the membrane, an element for cleaning and an element for the removal of the membrane are arranged spaced apart in a peripheral direction with respect to the axis of rotation.